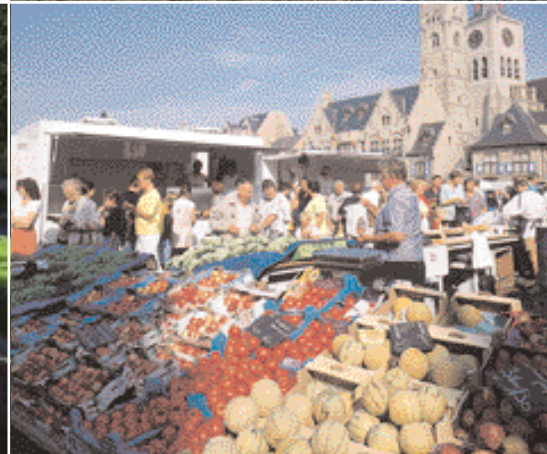
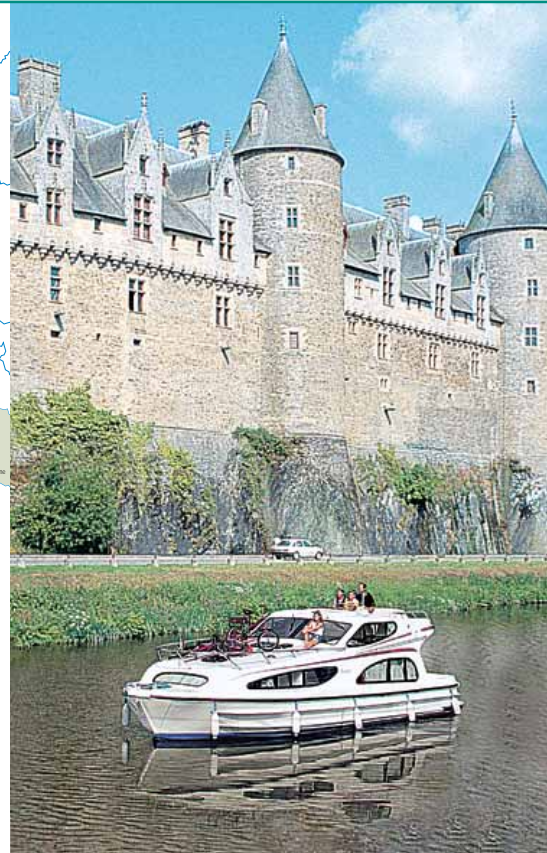
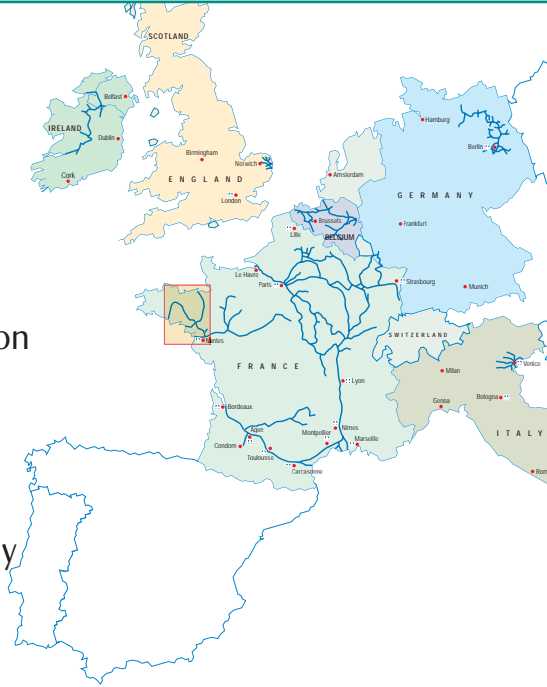


Brittany

A MAGICAL ANCESTRAL LAND

A land of myths and legends, romantic châteaux and towns full of character, cruising Brittany takes you on a journey through a simply fascinating culture. A Celtic duchy for more than a thousand years, today you will discover a region whose language, customs and dress remain a vivid homage to its past.



Brittany is one of France's most rugged regions. It's a magical land, alive with folklore, festivals and tradition, and the historic Napoleonic canals are lined with flower-adorned locks. History is entwined in the countryside, and amongst the picturesque villages and granite castles that surround the waterways, you will find irresistible spots along the way to moor and take leisurely walks and afternoon picnics.

Your base at Nort-sur-Erdre was once an important industrial port and although the factories have long since disappeared, the area retains a certain charm. Cruising west along the Canal de Nantes à Brest, spend some time at

Guenrouet where you will find the Kerisac cider factory – there you will learn all you need to know about this popular regional beverage.

Brittany's Celtic heritage is evident in many of the villages you will cruise through. Redon, for example, holds a festival at the end of July called Les Nocturnales, a celebration of medieval, baroque and Celtic music, with performances centred around the church of St Sauveur. Situated at the meeting of the rivers Vilaine and Oust, and the Canal de Nantes à Brest, the town is justifiably nicknamed 'little Venice', as the town is criss-crossed with waterways and numerous bridges.

Flavours of the region

Brittany rewards visitors with its famous crêpes, filled with chocolate or fruit, or savoury mushrooms, cheese or eggs. There are many different ways to prepare the "galette de sarrasin" (buckwheat pancake) or "crêpe de froment" (wheatflour pancake) and even more ways to serve this traditional dish! Best enjoyed with a glass of cider, you will find many creperies in villages along the canal's borders offering you the very best of Breton delicacies.

Seafood is abundant. Breton oysters, shellfish and crabs are famous throughout France. Enjoy with the popular wine, Muscadet, a dry, fruity white wine that goes very well with shellfish, produced in the extreme southern point of Brittany, near Nantes.

SUGGESTED CRUISES



One week cruises

Canal de Nantes à Brest cruise
Return trip – Nort-sur-Erdre to La Gacilly
198km/ 34 locks

South Vilaine and Canal de Nantes à Brest cruise
Return trip – Nort-sur-Erdre to La Roche Bernard
196km/ 32 locks

One way cruise

Vilaine and Canal de Nantes à Brest cruise
One way trip – Nort-sur-Erdre to Messac
119km/ 16 locks

Not to be missed...

La Gacilly is a craft centre and home to 25 craftsmen, including painters, sculptors and cabinet makers, who live here all year around. The headquarters of Yves Rocher the famous perfume maker can also be found in this welcoming village.

The chateau of **Blain** dates back to the 12th century and belonged successively to two famous Breton families. Today it belongs to the town and is home to an old style printing factory, an art exhibition and a restaurant. Before reaching **Messac**, which is classified as a 'green tourist station' thanks to its excellent tourist and sporting facilities, visit the sixteenth century farm on the banks of the river at **Beslé**.

Visit the museum of maritime history at the sheltered anchorage of **La Roche Bernard**, which has always been an important port and today a favourite with yachtsmen. In the town, La Maison de l'Abeille is an interesting and educational trip through the world of the bee, with a shop supplying home grown honey.